

nomenclatorial view, it is immaterial whether an author describes his genus or not, or whether he describes it wrongly, so long as the type species is ascertained. This once ascertained, the genus is fixed, although the characters of the type species may even contradict those given by the author. What he states can have no weight except as to the mention of the type. It follows that any genus originally containing no species mentioned by name, or only undescribed ones, is invalid and to be ignored, no matter how fully described. It is a *nomen nudum* and that name can be subsequently employed in any sense. It also follows that the question of misidentification does not arise, the species mentioned by the author as his type, or the one determined by rule to be his type, is thereby the type, even though (if the type be an old species) he may obviously describe another.

The idea of Professor Williston, quoted in our last editorial, who says: "I consider a genus as something more than a specimen," is seen to be distinctly archaic and impracticable, while the complaint of Professor John B. Smith, recently published in *Science* that his generic names have been used in another sense than he intended by Sir G. F. Hampson is without justice and due to a failure on the part of Professor Smith to logically view the necessary result of the type idea.

The rule for selecting types of genera when these are not specified by the author becomes of the first importance, and its full discussion at the present time is abundantly justified.

BOOK NOTICE.

A Natural History of the British Lepidoptera, a text book for students and collectors. By J. W. TUTT, F. E. S. Volume V. London: Berlin: 1906.

We have the pleasure to notice another of Mr. Tutt's remarkably full and detailed volumes. This one contains two chapters of general matter entitled respectively "Hybridisation in Lepidoptera" and "Mongrelisation in Lepidoptera," followed by a minute account of the British Pterophorids. *Agdistis* is included, two superfamilies (!) being recognized, the Agdistides and Alucitides. The former contains the family Agdistidæ, the latter the families Platyptilidæ and Alucitidæ, and these are again divided into subfamilies, tribes and genera. We have previously expressed our opinion that Mr. Tutt gives his

groups too high rank, considering the characters on which they are founded and makes too many of them. This criticism applies equally to the present volume. Such things are, however, more or less a matter of opinion and do not seriously mar the pleasure we take in perusing the great mass of detailed facts and interesting generalizations about the British "Plumes" which Mr. Tutt has so assiduously collected and thoughtfully deduced.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW YORK ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

MEETING OF NOVEMBER 20, 1906.

Held at the American Museum of Natural History. President C. H. Roberts presided with thirteen members and one visitor present.

The secretary read a letter recently received from Mr. J. R. de la Torre Bueno requesting a grant from the Hermann Fund to carry on some investigations of the life-histories of the aquatic hemiptera.

On motion of Mr. Southwick the letter was referred to the executive committee for action.

Mr. Davis read the resignation of Dr. Otto Seifert. On motion of Mr. Groth action upon this was deferred.

Mr. Southwick moved that amendment of Article V of the by-laws, proposed at the last meeting be accepted. Seconded.

Motion was lost.

Mr. Southwick nominated Mr. Roberts as delegate to the Council of the Academy of Sciences. Carried.

On motion of Mr. Dickerson the president appointed as a committee Messrs. Dickerson, Groth and Davis to confer with a similar committee from the Brooklyn and Newark Societies in order to arrange for a smoker to be given to the entomologists attending the Association for the Advancement of Science during the Christmas holidays.

Mr. Bueno exhibited specimens of *Rhagozelia obesa* Uhl. and discussed the structural characters, habits and development of this species.

Mr. Leng gave some remarks on the Coccinellidæ and pointed out the chief characters used in the separation of certain genera. He exhibited a collection of Coccinellidæ.

MEETING OF DECEMBER 18, 1906.

Held at the American Museum of Natural History. President C. H. Roberts in the chair with twelve members present.

The librarian, Mr. Schaeffer, reported the receipt of the following exchanges: Zeitschrift f. Wissenschaftliche Insecten biologie, II, Nos. 10 and 11.

On the Diurnal Lepidoptera of the Athabaska and Mackenzie Region, B. C. by Merritt Cary. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 1488.

The Digger Wasps of North America and the West Indies. Henry T. Fernald. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 1487.